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CIA presence fuels student discontent

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The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is coming to Stanford to recruit today, but its appearance here will attract more than future federal agents.

The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) and the Stanford Central American Action Network (SCAAN) are planning to protest the CIA's recruitment drive at Tresidder Union by distributing leaflets criticizing the CIA and possibly by picketing the recruitment drive.

The Gay and Lesbian Law Students Association (GLLSA) has also criticized the University for allowing the CIA, a group which they claim discriminates against homosexuals, to recruit on campus.

Scott Sommers of DSA and Scott Otteman of SCAAN said that their groups' objections to the CIA visit stem mainly from "concern" about the CIA's present and past activities, especially current CIA involvement in Nicaragua.

"As we see it," said Otteman, "the CIA is responsible for the loss of 1000 lives in Nicaragua, many of those innocent women and children."

"It seems to me that ten years ago the CIA would never have thought to come to a college campus like this," Otteman said. "Why should they do it now?"

full-page Daily ads and decided we had to voice our opinions."

SCAAN and DSA, which met yesterday evening, plan to distribute leaflets, hold an organizational meeting at noon today and possibly picket Tresidder during the briefing sessions. In addition, DSA member Jill Rhodes said volunteers would be present during the CIA's public information sessions today to ask questions about CIA activities.

Yesterday the GLLSA submitted a letter to The Daily criticizing the University for allowing the CIA to recruit on campus.

The letter states, "By lending its facilities for the recruitment of new members of this corps of upstanding moral guardians, Stanford University cannot escape complicity in the perpetuation of this kind of invidious discrimination."

The letter also states that "many academic institutions, including law schools at Harvard and Berkeley, have refused to lend institutional support to employers who cannot consider job applicants on their individual merits and talents without regard to arbitrary and irrational criteria."

GLLSA member Martin Koloski said his group is considering approaching professors at the Law School to get information about formulating University restrictions on recruiters who practice discriminatory policies.

The Law School is currently the only part of the University to have adopted an explicit non-discrimination policy on "sexual orientation" in admissions.

Koloski said federal agencies as a rule have "security clearances" and that as far as he knew, the security clearance of both the military and the CIA were explicitly intolerant of

homosexuals and homosexual activity.

"I'm not sure of the exact semantics," he said.

When asked about the CIA's hiring practices, CIA Recruiting Director Bill Cooley said he would make no comment about the homosexuality issue, but added, "Anyone can apply."

At the Career Planning and Placement Center (CPPC), there seems to be little concern about the CIA protests. CPPC Director Christopher Shinkman said he was not sure how many students the recruiters would attract. "People don't come in very often to solicit CIA applications," he said.

Cooley said he expects a large turnout.

"We've never held a recruiting session like this here," he said, "but we held one similar to this at MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in the fall and the response was very good. I think we can expect a large turnout."

Both SCAAN and DSA organized their protests rather quickly: Otteman of SCAAN said that the decision to protest was made Monday. "Any coalition here will be purely defacto," Rhodes said.